



Department of Justice

United States Attorney Timothy Q. Purdon
District of North Dakota

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 2, 2011

<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/nd/>

CONTACT: JULIE HOUGH

PHONE: (701) 297-7400

FAX: (701) 297-7425

Minnesota Man Sentenced to 12 Years in Prison for
Engaging in Illicit Sexual Conduct with a Minor

FARGO - United States Attorney Timothy Q. Purdon announced that on May 2, 2011, **Darrin Roy Anderson** of Middle River, Minnesota, was sentenced by United States District Court Judge Ralph R. Erickson on a charge of travel to engage in illicit sexual conduct.

Anderson, 36, pleaded guilty on February 16, 2011, to traveling from Wallhala, North Dakota, where he was employed at the time, to East Grand Forks, Minnesota, to have sex with a 13-year-old girl in exchange for \$300. Darrin Anderson, using the alias Tyler Anderson, created an online account on the social networking site Facebook. Using the fictitious identity, the defendant contacted the 13-year-old girl in this case. Eventually, the fictitious Tyler Anderson introduced the victim to Darrin Anderson online.

Darrin Anderson, using his real identity, then began texting the victim and offered to pay the victim cash in exchange for sexual favors. Eventually, the defendant traveled from Wallhala to East Grand Forks in order to engage in sex with the 13-year-old victim.

Shortly thereafter, the incident was reported to the East Grand Forks Police

-more-

Department. Law enforcement interviewed the 13-year-old victim who told the officers that Tyler Anderson (a/k/a defendant Darrin Anderson) introduced her to Darrin Anderson on Facebook. Law enforcement then obtained a search warrant for Tyler Anderson's Facebook profile and chats. According to information provided by Facebook, Darrin Anderson, using the identity Tyler Anderson, engaged in hundreds of private chats with local adolescent girls and attempted to sexually solicit them. In one instance, he revealed to a young female that he was not Tyler Anderson, but that in reality he was Darrin Anderson.

The charged incidents occurred in August 2009 in the District of North Dakota.

Judge Erickson sentenced **Anderson** to 12 years in prison to be followed by a lifetime of supervised release. **Anderson** was ordered register as a sex offender and to pay a \$100 special assessment to the Crime Victim's Fund. Restitution will be determined at a later date.

The case was investigated by the East Grand Forks Police Department and the U. S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement - Homeland Security Investigations.

Assistant United States Attorney Jennifer Klemetsrud Puhl prosecuted the case.

-end-